

## **Illinois Early Learning Council (ELC) Quality Committee**

**Facilitated by Co-Chairs Dan Harris and Teri Talan**

**Monday, November 23, 2020**

**11:30 AM- 1:30 PM**

### **Attendees**

|                   |                        |                     |
|-------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Angela Cotromanes | Debrah Clark           | Maria Estlund       |
| Anna Perry        | Edie Washington        | Marsha Hawley       |
| April Janney      | Jenny Metcalf          | Melissa Batchelor   |
| Brynn Selbert     | Jill Enchelmayer       | Melissa Szymczak    |
| Carisa Hurley     | Joellyn Whitehead      | Rebecca Pruitt      |
| Carrie Bires      | Joni Scritchlow        | Sinthu Ramalingam   |
| Cathy Main        | Karen Zehnal           | Stephanie Bernoteit |
| Cindy Mahr        | Lauri Morrison-Frichtl | Tammy Langraf       |
| Cindy Wall        | Lisa Downey            | Teri Talan          |
| Dan Harris        | Marcy Mendenhall       | Tom Layman          |

### **Welcome & Introductions – Dan Harris, INCCRRA and Teri Talan, MCECL, Co-Chairs**

- January 2, 2020, meeting notes accepted.

### **Illinois Salary and Staffing Survey – Joellyn Whitehead, INCCRRA**

- Joellyn presented Workforce Data updates based on the Illinois Salary & Staffing Survey of Licensed Child Care Facilities: FY2019.
  - PowerPoint Presentation attached.

### **ExceleRate Subcommittee Report – Teri Talan, MCECL, Co-Chair**

- Teri shared the ExceleRate Subcommittee Update.
  - PowerPoint Presentation attached.
- Stephanie Bernoteit shared updates about Higher Ed cohorts
  - Cohort initiatives under the PDG B-5 effort specifically for assistant teachers
    - One project is focused on individuals with a CDA to an ECE Credential Level 2 or Infant Toddler Credential Level 2.
    - Another project is focused on individuals with an Infant Toddler Credential Level 2 to higher levels.
  - Additional initiative is working with individuals with an ECE Credential Level 5 to add a Professional Educator License and ESL/Bilingual endorsement.

### **Initiatives/Key Highlights from State Partners:**

- **Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development – Tom Layman**
  - **PDG B5 Activities**
    - PDG B-5 Grant is getting ready to end renewal year one. There are potentially three renewal years on a calendar year basis. Third quarter has been closed out, and they are preparing to close out year one.

- GOECD is preparing weekly COVID-19 messaging to administrators and staff, with emphasis on trying to avoid staff to staff transmission (where they have seen the highest numbers) and avoidance of coming in to work with COVID, contacted from outside the centers.
  - Family Advisory committee statewide is now in place.
    - Regional system
    - Over 100 people applied for 16 seats.
    - Representatives were at the last Early Learning Council meeting.
  - Governance and Membership Committee of the Early Learning Council has been meeting to develop guiding principles and address representation on the Early Learning Council.
- **Illinois Department of Human Services – Cindy Wall**
  - Quality Initiatives Bureau continues to offer administrative support GOECD for their PDG B-5 Grant activities. They are assisting with getting the contracting system moving.
  - Megan Fitzgerald is working on slightly revised assessment process with NLU and INCCRRA, for those programs who have assessments due at least through the end of fiscal year 2021. There will be some virtual assessments. Information about this is starting to go out to programs.
  - At the beginning of COVID, IDHS entered in to a one-time partnership with Teachstone
    - Opportunity to earn a CDA, ideally for practitioners not working because of COVID. This would be a benefit to the workforce with more lead teachers in centers.
    - Accelerated pilot for 250+ practitioners from both centers and family child care. Note: not all will complete the process for various reasons.
    - First six months is coming to an end, which was the training piece with Teachstone. Next six months will be to finish the CDA process.
    - Worked with Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies to offer this program via an application process, whereas providers would have to meet some guidelines and agree to the short timeline.
  - Quality Initiatives Bureau continues to work with Head Start Collaboration Office and Head Start Association to make sure that work continues.
  - Quality Initiatives Bureau working internally with the Bureau of Subsidy Management to finalize the health and safety training processes and procedures that are requirement are well defined. They are working on internal processes at the Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies. Those will be rolled out soon, and they are training health and safety coaches on these new policies and procedures.
  - Continue work with INCCRRA on multiple items.
- **Illinois State Board of Education – Carissa Hurley, ISBE**
  - Currently updating Preschool For All implementation manual
  - All monitoring for the fall was handled virtually and will most likely continue to be virtual in the spring. Information will be sent out confirming the format of monitoring for spring once the final decision has been made.
  - ISBE received the Early Childhood Gear Funding
    - \$10,000,000 to be used specifically for early childhood
    - Funding is supporting four initiatives
      - Initiatives with GOECD
        - More access to the Pyramid Model Consortium programs

- Infant and early childhood support – with the Mental Health Consultation Workforce
  - Working with University of Chicago and their text messaging program that provides educational texts to parents. There was recently a press release about this program that will be up and running soon. This is for PFA and PFE parents. The parents are able to opt in or out of receiving text messages.
  - One-time funding opportunities were offered to programs that were most impacted by COVID. There was a zip code listing that stated if a program was in that area and noted as being disproportionately impacted by COVID. The funds given to these programs to be used for home learning kit and technology support for in-person and remote learning.
- **Illinois Board of Higher Education – Stephanie Bernoteit**
  - Working with partners across Illinois, including K-12 and Higher Education partners
    - Stephanie shared images of a Public information campaign that was launched in Summer 2020. “Stay the Course” – Marketing targeted to encourage post-secondary students to continue their education in Illinois. The campaign also links current and aspiring students to resources for support.
      - This campaign also included a variety of social media tools that higher education policy makers, advocates, and other partners could use through their own social media outlets to help co-message the importance of staying enrolled in college as we navigate the extra and profound challenges of the COVID pandemic.
      - <https://www.ibhe.org/stay-the-course.html>
      - This campaign will be pushed out again – Stephanie encouraged others on the call to share this information as appropriate.
  - IHBE Strategic Planning Process
    - <https://www.ibhe.org/ibhe-strategic-planning-meetings.html>
    - There have been a series of board meetings to lay out a vision for this plan for all post-secondary education in Illinois, a set of core principles, and several priority areas.
    - Planning will move into full gear in December with launch of an Advisory Board and design work groups. People are invited to participate by watching meeting details on the website shared. People are also invited to share thoughts, papers, reports, etc. they are working on that can help inform this initiative.
    - Focus is on creating an innovative, nimble higher education system that closes equity gaps and ensures that individuals, families, and communities can thrive.
      - There are three emerging priority areas that likely will be the areas of core work and planning. These areas have come from feedback from nearly 10,000 participants in a statewide survey and a series of targeted focus groups across Illinois. There will be additional opportunities to be able to participate in one of these activities.
        - Early engagement has pointed to the importance of focusing on the closing of equity gaps, looking at making higher education more affordable, and strategies to help people attain a wide variety of post-secondary credentials (Gateways Credentials, associate, bachelor, master’s degrees, and beyond).
  - PDG B-5 Higher Education Cohort
    - Cohort initiative informed by December 2019 GOECD report about innovative cohort programs that various HEIs and faculty across the state have led. This report informed what is happening with the current federally funded cohort project.
    - 5 HEIs are running cohorts.

- 136 participants – over 40% are people of color, over 40% from rural communities or rural parts of the state.
  - Participants are working through the cohorts to complete one or more of the Credentials mentioned earlier (transitioning from CDA to Gateways Credential, improving level of ECE or Infant Toddler Credentials, earning an ISBE PEL, adding an ESL/Bilingual endorsement, special education endorsement).
  - Participants are working as assistant teachers or other roles in early childhood.
  - Participants have access to tuition assistance, technology supports, reimbursement for mileage or childcare.
  - Academic programs are being offered with compressed schedules (i.e., course could be 7-8 weeks versus whole semester).
  - Job embedded coaching and professional learning communities are included to provide additional support.
  - The cohorts are using competency-based learning modules and prior learning assessment.
- **Advocacy Partners** - Maria Estlund, IAFC
    - Legislative updates
      - General Assembly's fall veto session was canceled due to COVID – unclear when exactly the ILGA will convene again, but as of now they are saying January.
      - The Black Caucus members are interested in early childhood as part of their agenda to advance racial equity in Illinois. We will keep you posted on our work with them to support early childhood.
      - One recent update that is related to this committees' work, especially relevant to SB1829
        - ISBE's new Illinois Educator Preparation Profile metrics only acknowledge placement in public school settings – so we spoke at last week's IBSE board meeting to request acknowledgement of CBO placement too, as that is key to early childhood and ensuring that institutions of higher education continue to develop those prep programs that support our CBO workforce.
        - During the ISBE meeting, ISBE expressed intent to acknowledge this ECE consideration.

#### **Additional Information/updates**

- Dan reminded the committee that the Governor's Funding Commission, formed in December 2019, is continuing with its work. There are three main recommendations so far around centralizing early childhood education and care funding. That involves centralizing the funding and creating a new state agency to house early care and education programs.
  - Cost to provide access to high quality early learning to all Illinois children is approximately \$13-\$14 billion. There is currently \$1.9 billion currently going towards that effort.
  - Information about this work is available on the GOECD website.  
<https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/OECD/Pages/Governor's-Early-Childhood-Funding-Commission.aspx>
  - Original timeline was to have recommendations to the Governor in January 2021. There will possibly be an extension to this timeline.
- Teri drew attention to the comment made by Cathy Main about the ISBE IPP system. There have been several problems other than the exclusion of CBOs. There is more to come concerning these issues.

**Link to Meeting - Microsoft Teams (via Microsoft Stream)** <https://web.microsoftstream.com/video/b9256d52-3043-48d9-b45c-c6d4352aea40>

**Summary/Next Steps**

- Next ExceleRate Subcommittee Meeting – January 21, 2021
- Next Quality Committee Meeting – March 23, 2021

**Adjourn**